

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-21 are pending. Of these claims, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15-18 and 20 stand rejected, claims 3 and 19 stand allowed, and claims 5, 9, 11 and 21 stand objected to. This communication amends claims 1, 7, 15 and 16.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

2. Objected to claims 5, 9, 11, and 21 contain allowable subject matter.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 15, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,114,946 to Fluck. Although the claims were amended in the previous response to require "...a stop member extending along a length of the cover and facing an interior surface of the flexible seal...", the examiner essentially asserts that since the "interior surface" is not been defined in the claims, Fluck still anticipates same.

In response thereto, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "...a flexible seal including an exterior surface for engaging the surface and an interior surface opposite the exterior surface...a stop member extending along a length of the cover and facing the interior surface of the flexible seal..." Independent claims 7 and 15 have been similarly amended.

Fluck fails to expressly or inherently describe such a stop member, as the stop members 7 and 8 in Fluck do not face the interior surface of the seal 23, as currently required in the claims.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

3. Claims 12, 13, and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fluck in view of prior art Figures 2A and 2B disclosed in the present application (prior art Figures 2A and 2B).

Claims 12, 13, and 16-17 now require, via their respective dependencies from independent claims 1, 7 and 15, a flexible seal including an exterior surface for engaging the surface, an interior surface opposite the exterior surface and a stop member extending along a length of the cover and facing the interior surface of the flexible seal. These features are not taught or suggested by Fluck in view of prior art Figures 2A and 2B.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 15-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over prior art Figures 2A and 2B in view of Fluck.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 15-18 and 20 now require a flexible seal including an exterior surface for engaging the surface, an interior surface opposite the exterior surface and a stop member extending along a length of the cover and facing the interior surface of the flexible seal. These features are not taught or suggested by prior art Figures 2A and 2B in view of Fluck.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

5. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and, further, that claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-

21 are in condition for allowance. Should there be any questions or matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

6. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17, which are associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTW/131096.1